

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1-20 presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 6, and 14 are amended herein. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-14, 16, and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,324,608 B1 to Papa et al. ("Papa").

The amendments to independent claims 1, 6, and 14 contained herein are identical to the proposed amendments faxed to the Examiner on February 27, 2004. The Examiner indicated in a voice message to the Applicant on March 1, 2004, that these amendments are favorable to the Examiner and would likely overcome the current prior art cited.

Independent claim 1 now recites, in pertinent part,

a network communications link ... **substantially disposed within the housing,**

wherein the first processor is enabled to communicate with a peripheral device ... by transmitting data ... over the network communications link **using packetized messages based on a network transmission protocol.**

Independent claim 6 now recites, in pertinent part,

a communications link between the first and second network interfaces **substantially disposed within the housing,** the communications link **using packetized messages based on a network transmission protocol.**

Finally, independent claim 14 now recites, in pertinent part,

A method for enabling communication between a peripheral device **disposed within a computing machine** having a processor and an application running on the processor, comprising:

...

transferring the messages between the processor and the peripheral device **using packetized messages based on a network transmission protocol.**

Accordingly, Applicants note that claims 1, 6, and 14 all recite in one form or another, using packetized messages to communicate between entities disposed substantially within the housing of an apparatus or a computing machine. In contrast, Papa discloses interconnecting processing circuitry (e.g., CPU module 103, network interface modules

104, and power modules 105) via **buses** using high-density connectors. However, Papa fails to disclose using packetized message to communicate over the buses.

Consequently, Papa fails to disclose each and every element of claims 1, 6, and 14, as required under M.P.E.P. § 2131. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant § 102 rejections of claims 1, 6, and 14 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Papa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,067,407 to Wadsworth et al. (“Wadsworth”).

Applicants kindly note that Wadsworth also fails to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest using packetized message to communicate over a communication link disposed substantially within a housing or transferring messages between a processor and a peripheral device both disposed within a computing machine. Rather, Wadsworth discloses “Remote Diagnosis of Network Device **Over A Local Area Network.**”

Dependent claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-20 are patentable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant §§ 102 and 103 rejections for claims 2-5, 7-13, 15-20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

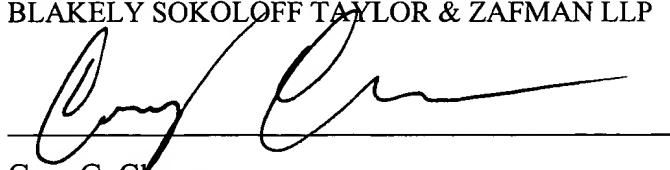
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: March 4, 2004


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 4, 2004
Date of Deposit


Adrian Villarreal

March 4, 2004
Date